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LETTER DATED 24 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT OBSERVER FOR THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Pursuant to Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the texts of two statements adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States meeting at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 14 September 1996 at its one hundred and sixth regular session. I should be grateful if you would bring the statements to the attention of the President of the Security Council and if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Mahmoud ABOUL-NASR
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the
League of Arab States

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Annex 1

Statement adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States on 14 September 1996 concerning the situation in northern Iraq

The Council of the League of Arab States, meeting in Cairo on 14 September 1996 at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs,

Having heard the statements made by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs at their consultative meeting this morning concerning the grave situation created in northern Iraq by Turkish violations of Iraqi territory on the pretext of establishing a so-called "security zone" or "danger zone" and the consequent repercussions for Arab national security,

Having expressed its deep concern at the way the situation has developed as a result of territorial intrusions that threaten the unity, security and integrity of the territory of the Republic of Iraq,

Affirms the following:

1. Its strong condemnation of interference by certain geographically contiguous States in the internal affairs of the territory of an Arab State and a member of the League of Arab States;

2. Its strong commitment to the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq and its desire that it should not be subjected to attempts at intimidation;

3. Its full support for the Iraqi people and for the endeavour to mitigate its suffering. In this context, the Council urges the speedy implementation of the "oil-for-food" formula in accordance with Security Council resolution 986 (1995).

Annex 2

Statement adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States on 14 September 1996 concerning the dispute between Yemen and Eritrea

The Council of the League of Arab States,

Having heard the statement of His Excellency Mr. Abduh Ali Abd al-Rahman, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Head of the Delegation of the Republic of Yemen, concerning the latest developments in the situation in the southern Red Sea area created by the landing of Eritrean forces on Yemen's Lesser Hanish Island in the first week of August 1996 and their occupation of positions there,

Commending the positions adopted by the Government of the Republic of Yemen in addressing the crisis, which have been characterized by the greatest self-restraint, and its responsible attitude aimed at preventing any aggravation or deterioration of the situation in the area,

Further commending the position taken by the United Nations Security Council, the role it has played in urging the parties to the dispute to exercise the utmost self-restraint, its demand for a return to the situation prevailing prior to the beginning of August 1996 and its call for compliance with the Agreement on Principles signed by the two countries on 21 May 1996 in Paris, which requires that the dispute be settled by peaceful means,

Expresses its strong commitment to the need to foster security and stability in the Red Sea area and to the historical relations of good-neighbourliness that link the Republic of Yemen and the State of Eritrea;

Affirms its full support for the Agreement on Principles signed by the Republic of Yemen and the State of Eritrea and for the efforts being made by France for the peaceful settlement of the dispute, and stresses the need for urgent steps to be taken to complete the arbitration procedures and for the provisions of the Agreement on Principles to be implemented by the two neighbouring countries.